

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 09184 290644Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /057 W

-----028223 290655Z /12

P 281615Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9383

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 9184

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TS

SUBJ: LE MONDE REPORT ON MASMOUDI INTERVIEW IN LEBANESE

WEEKLY SABATH AL KHER DEC 25

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DEC 27 ISSUE OF LE MONDE REPORTED IN BRIEF SECOND PAGE ARTICLE (ATTRIBUTED TO A.F.P.) THAT INTERVIEW WITH EX-TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI WAS PUBLISHED IN LEBANESE WEEKLY SABATH AL KHEIR DEC 25. ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, MASMOUDI FAVORS "AN EMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND A CHANGE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL REGIME".

2. HE ALSO IS QUOTED AS CALLING FOR "DECENTRALIZATION OF TUNISIA," AS WELL AS SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES WITH A VIEW OF REALIZING A UNITARY FORMULA." ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH MASNOUDI STATEMENT THAT "IT IS THE UNIONS WHICH ARE NOW THE PRINCIPAL FORCE IN TUNISIA," AND THAT "TUNISIAN ARMY IS IN PROCESS OF GAINING POWER." HE EXPRESSED WORRY THAT ARMY MAY EVENTUALLY NOT RETURN TO BARRACKS AND TAKE FULL POWER. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT WE HAVE SEEN ATTRIBUTED TO MASMOUDI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 09184 290644Z

SINCE HIS RETURN TO TUNIS ON DEC 12. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE IS STILL IN TUNISIA, BUT HIS STATEMENTS, AS REPORTED, CLEARLY INDICATE THAT MASMOUDI HAS ENDED HIS PERIOD OF SILENCE AND AGAIN HAS ENTERED THE FRAY. ALTHOUGH GOT HAS TAKEN NO OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ARTICLE, MASNOUDI'S REMARKS MUST SURELY BE UNWELCOME AND PARTICULARLY SO AT PRESENT TIME OF CABINET REORGANIZATION IN WAKE OF

BELKHODJA'S REMOVAL. END CONFIDENTIAL.

4. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOR BEIRUT ACTION REQUESTED: IF POSSIBLE,
COULD YOU PROVIDE US ENGLISH OR FRENCH TRANSLATION OF ABOVE ARTICLE
BY TELEGRAM. IF ARTICLE IS TOO LONG, WOULD APPRECIATE
BRIEF SUMMARY BY TELEGRAM AND AIRPOUCHING OF ORIGINAL.
UNFORTUNATELY, SABATH AL KHEIR IS NOT AVAILALBLE LOCALLY.
END UNCLASSIFIED.
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS09184
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780001-0172
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771210/aaaaahxh.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cce520fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 102553
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LE MONDE REPORT ON MASMOUDI INTERVIEW IN LEBANESE WEEKLY SABATH AL KHER DEC 25
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, TS
To: STATE BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cce520fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009